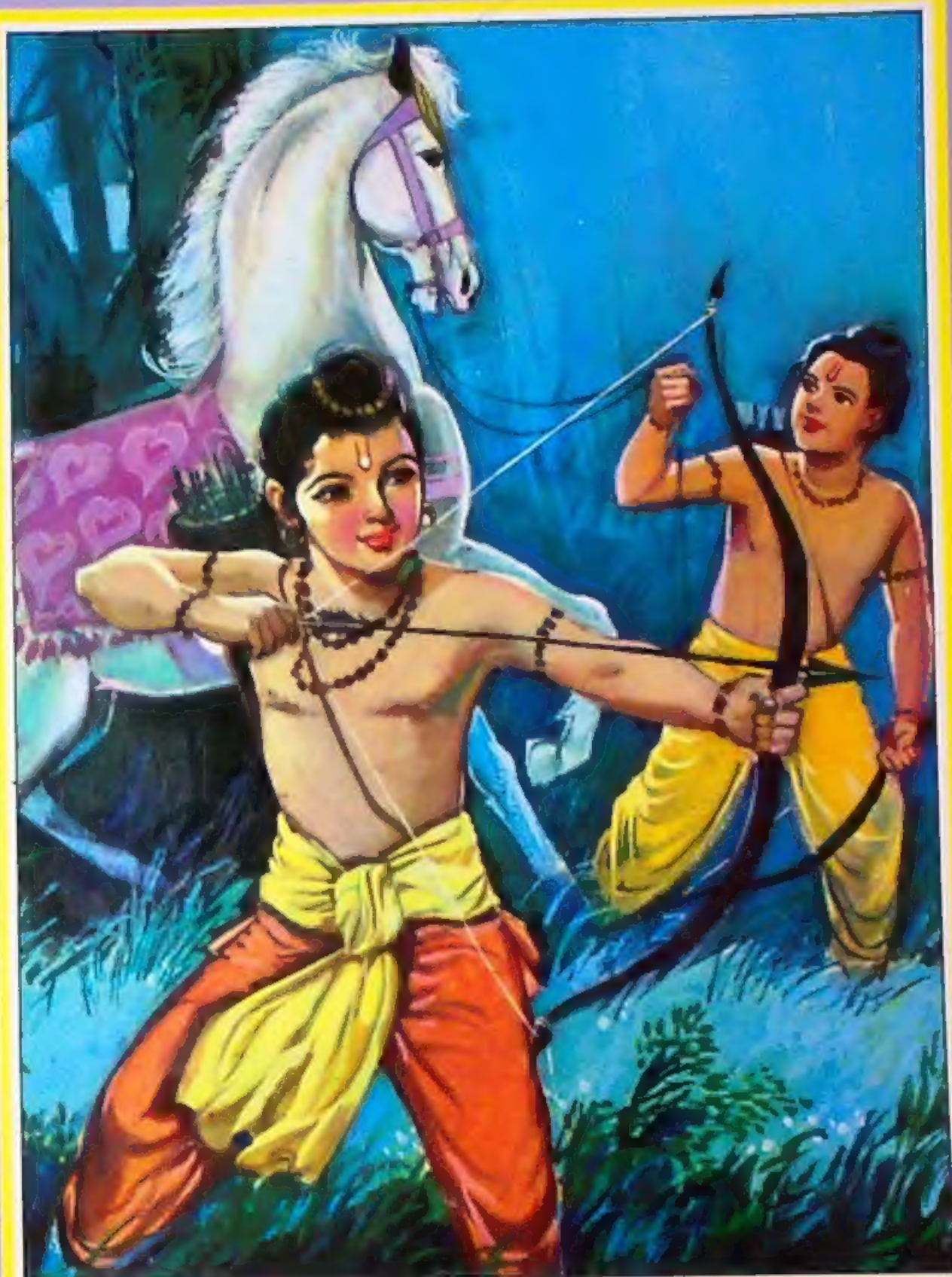




Vol. 503 Rs. 25

# The Sons of Rama



Amar Chitra Katha: the Glorious Heritage of India





# The Sons Of Rama

The story of Rama and Sita was first set down by the sage Valmiki in his epic poem *Ramayana*.

Rama was the eldest son of Dasharatha, the king of Ayodhya, who had three wives – Kaushalya, Kaikeyi and Sumitra. Rama was the son of Kaushalya, Bharata of Kaikeyi and Laxmana and Shatrughna of Sumitra. The four princes grew up to be brave and valiant. Rama won the hand of Sita, the daughter of King Janaka. Dasharatha wanted to crown Rama as the king but Kaikeyi objected. Using boons granted to her by Dasharatha earlier, she had Rama banished to the forest. Sita and Laxmana decided to follow Rama. While in the forest, a Rakshasi, Shoorpanakha, accosted Laxmana but had her nose cut off by him. In revenge, her brother Ravana, king of Lanka, carried Sita away. Rama and Laxmana set out to look for her and with the help of an army of monkeys, defeated Ravana.

On returning to Ayodhya after fourteen years of exile, Rama banished Sita because of the suspicions of his subjects. In the ashrama of sage Valmiki, she gave birth to her twin sons, Luv and Kush.

Based on Uttara-Ramacharita of Bhavabhuti.



Artwork: Pratap Mulick

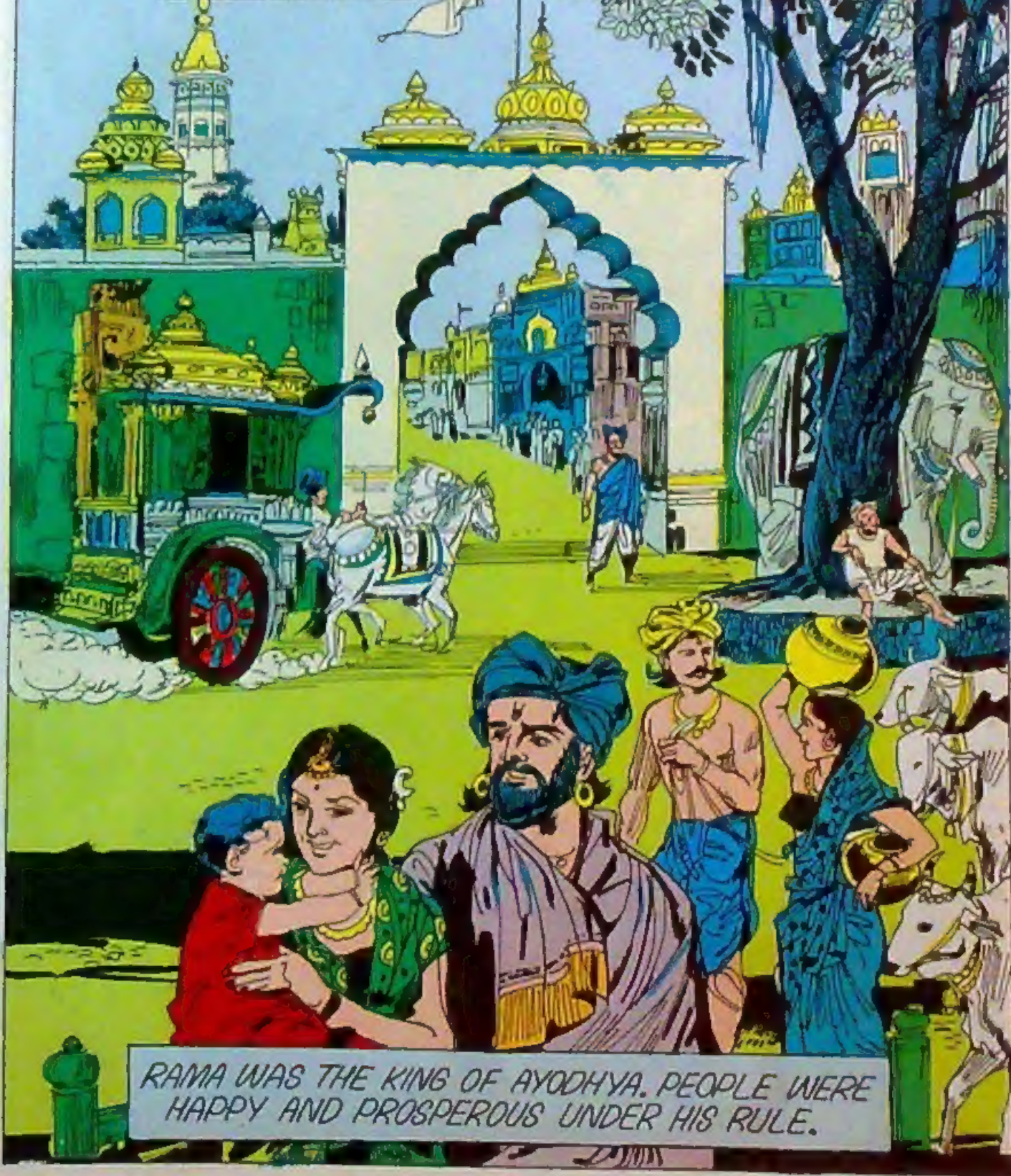
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# THE SONS OF RAMA



RAMA WAS THE KING OF AYODHYA. PEOPLE WERE  
HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS UNDER HIS RULE.



WITH HIS BROTHERS, LAKSHMANA, BHARATA AND SHATRUGHNA, RAMA USED TO VISIT HIS PEOPLE AND LISTEN TO THEIR PROBLEMS...



... AND EVERY EVENING WITH HIS QUEEN SITA, HE RECEIVED HIS MEN, ONE EVENING -







MAHARAJ  
TODAY A  
LAUNDERER  
WAS BEATING  
HIS WIFE,  
AND HE SAID...



GET OUT OF MY  
HOUSE! I'M NOT  
LIKE RAMA WHO  
ACCEPTS A WIFE  
AFTER SHE  
HAS LIVED IN  
ANOTHER'S  
HOUSE!



SHOULD I TURN MY  
WIFE OUT BECAUSE  
OF WHAT THE  
LAUNDERER SAID?  
NO... NO... AND  
SHE IS SOON  
TO BECOME  
A MOTHER!



BUT MY FIRST  
DUTY IS  
TOWARDS  
MY PEOPLE...  
I HAVE TO  
SEND HER  
AWAY...



THE FOLLOWING DAY HE SENT  
FOR LAXMANA.

YOU WILL TAKE  
SITA INTO THE  
JUNGLES AND  
LEAVE HER  
THERE.

BUT...

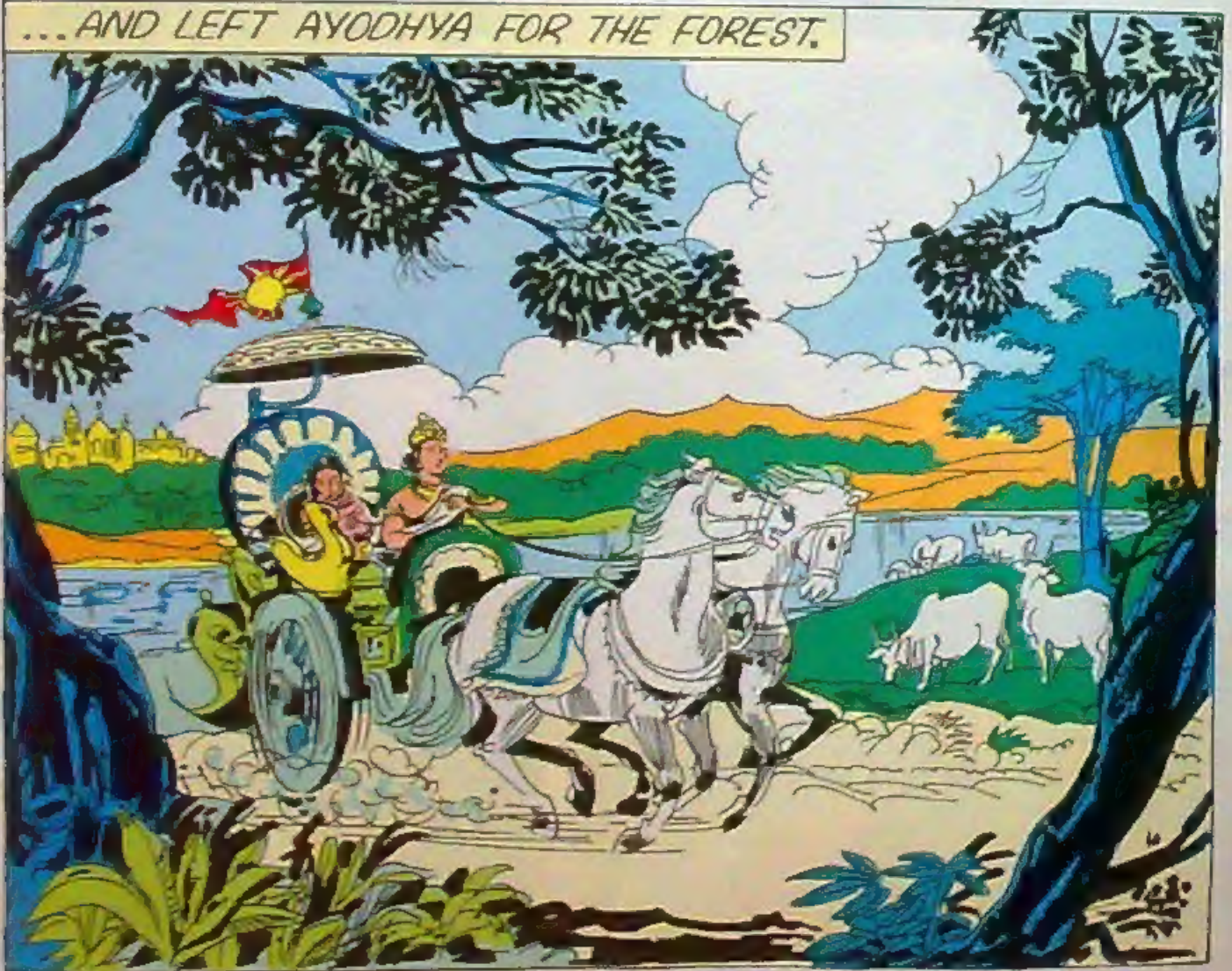
NO BUTS,  
THIS IS MY  
DECISION!



LAXMANA GOT HIS CHARIOT  
READY...



...AND LEFT AYODHYA FOR THE FOREST.







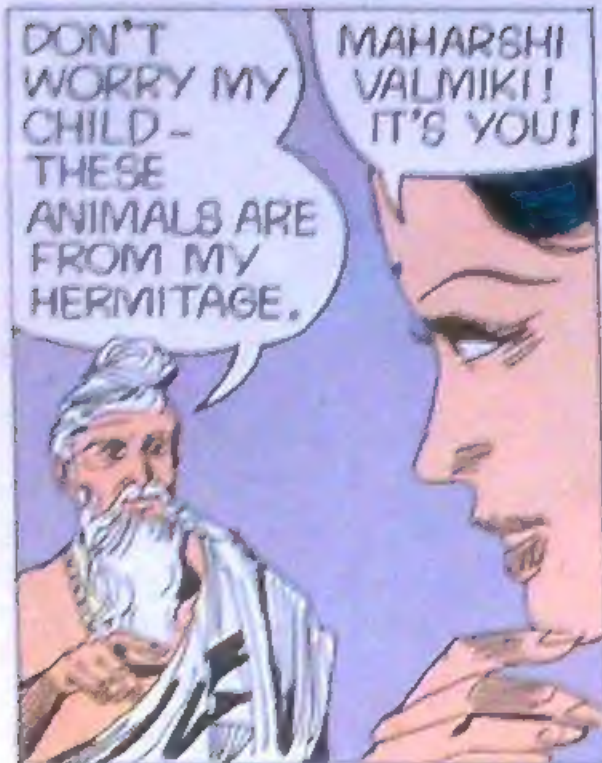
AFTER LAXMANA LEFT FOR AYODHYA, SITA WAS ALONE IN THE JUNGLE.



JUST THEN A SERPENT APPEARED.









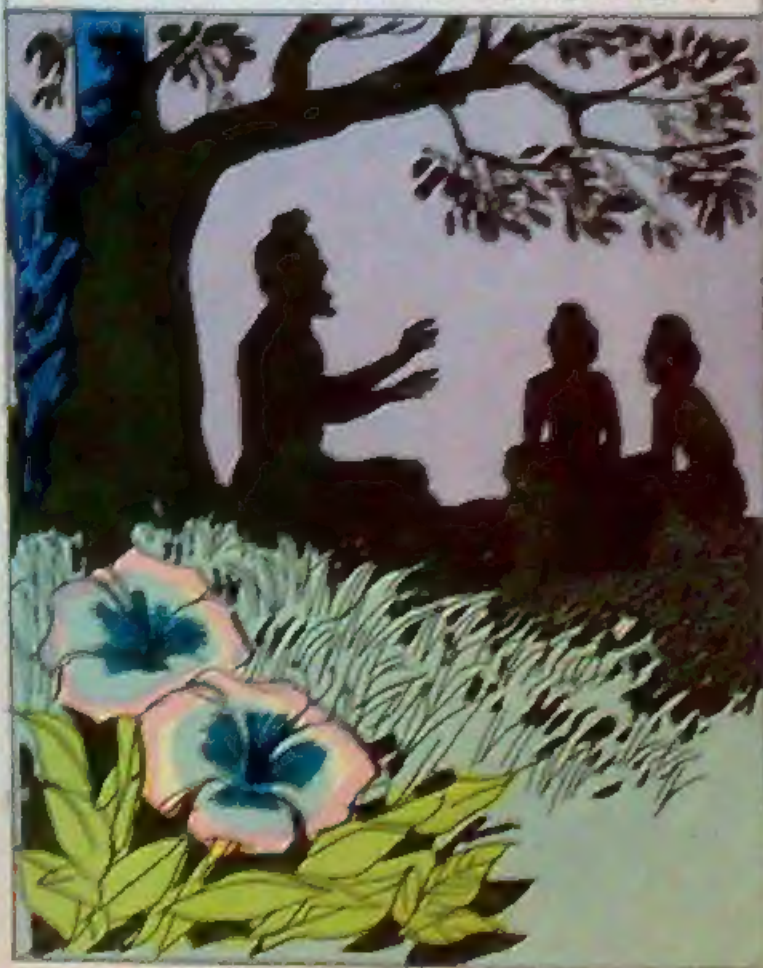
AS TIME PASSED, SITA'S TWIN SONS, LUV AND KUSH, GREW UP



BUT THE MAHARSHI TAUGHT YOU NOT TO BE CRUEL TO ANIMALS!



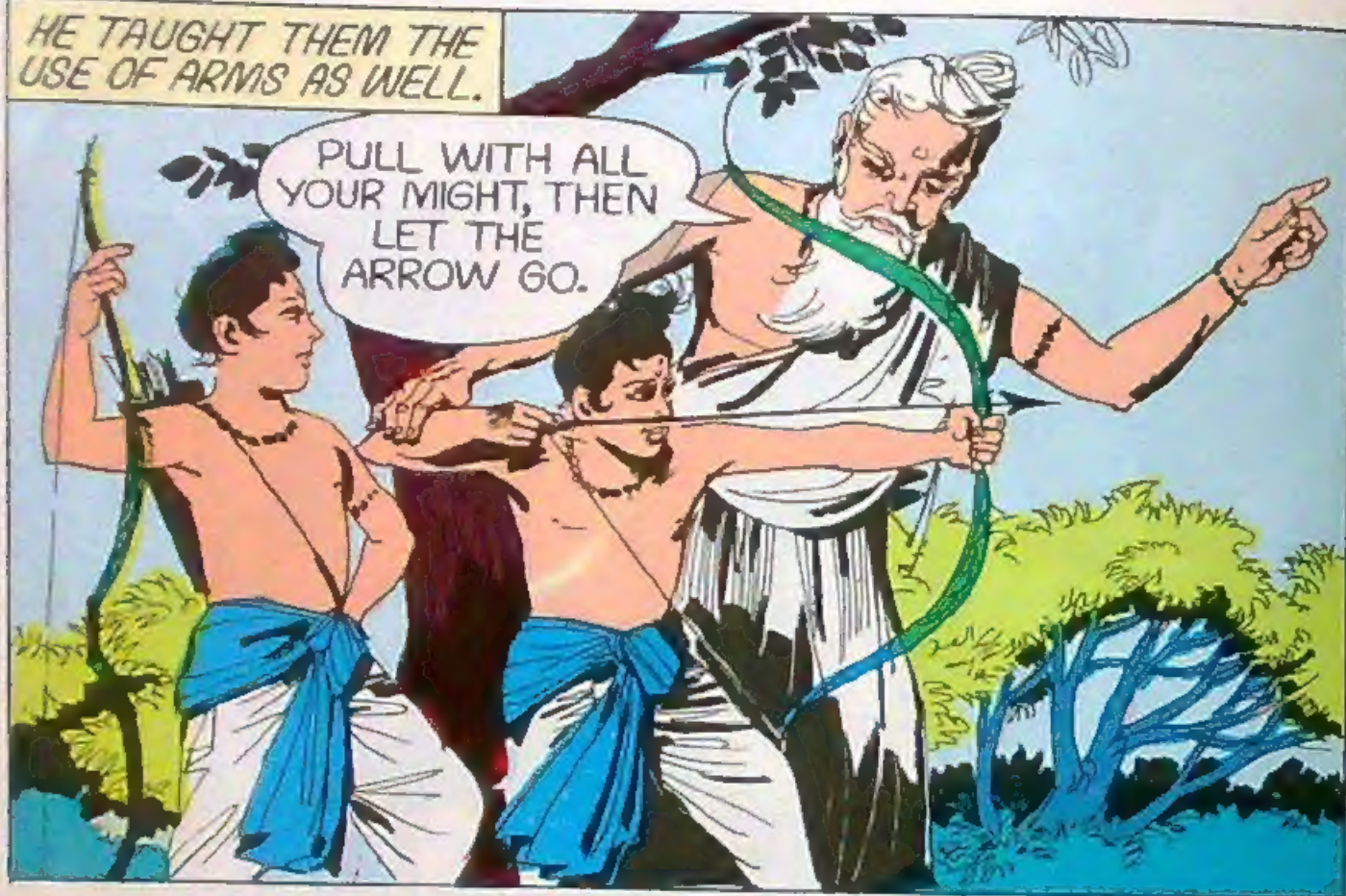
MAHARSHI VALMIKI PERSONALLY ATTENDED TO THEIR EDUCATION.





HE TAUGHT THEM THE  
USE OF ARMS AS WELL.

PULL WITH ALL  
YOUR MIGHT, THEN  
LET THE  
ARROW GO.

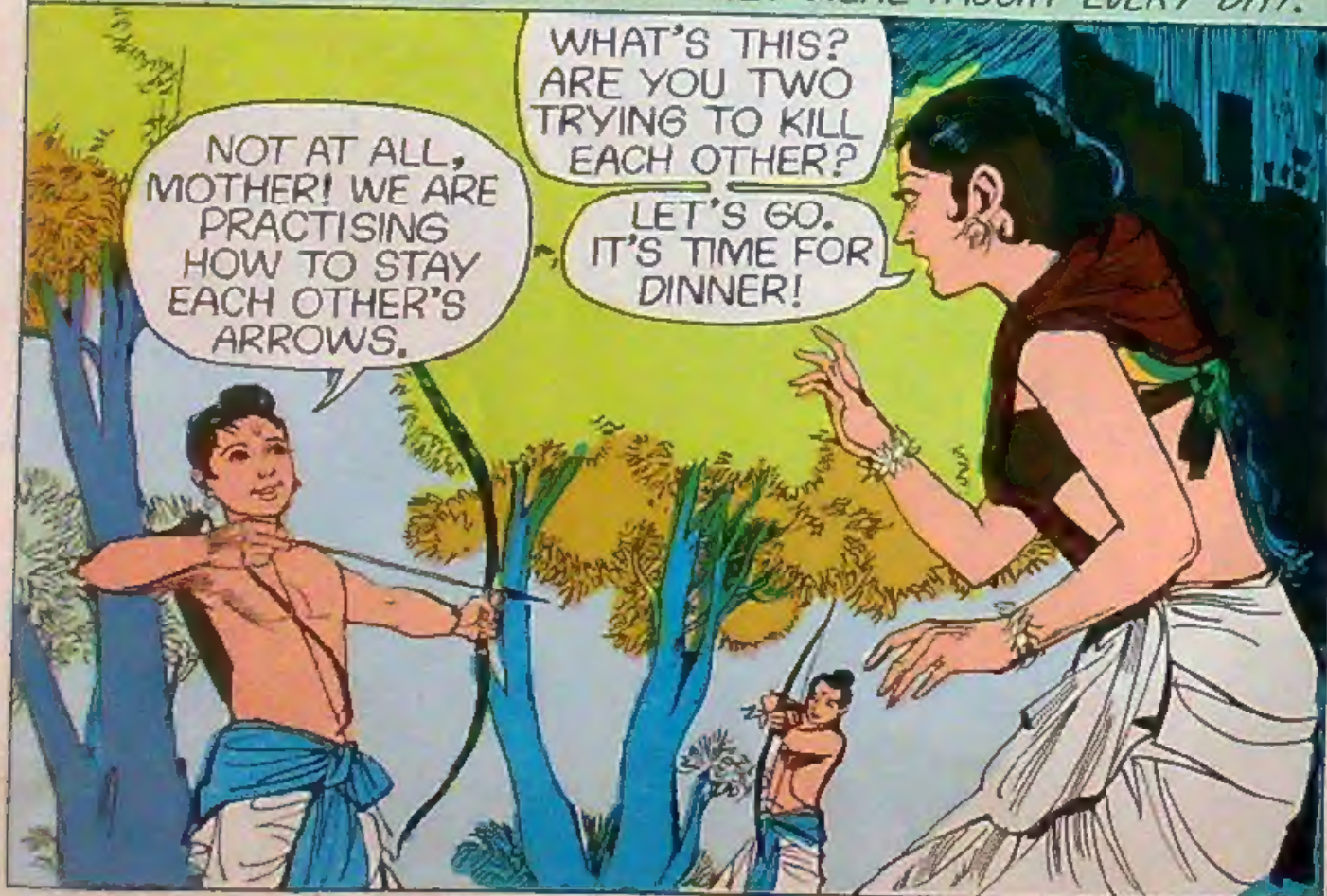


LUV AND KUSH PRACTISED WHAT THEY WERE TAUGHT EVERY DAY.

NOT AT ALL,  
MOTHER! WE ARE  
PRACTISING  
HOW TO STAY  
EACH OTHER'S  
ARROWS.

WHAT'S THIS?  
ARE YOU TWO  
TRYING TO KILL  
EACH OTHER?

LET'S GO.  
IT'S TIME FOR  
DINNER!





VALMIKI TOLD THEM THE STORY OF THE RAMAYANA, OF HOW RAMA BROKE THE BOW OF LORD SHIVA AND MARRIED VAIDEHI.

THAT IS NOTHING. I CAN ALSO BREAK A BOW.



"KAIKEYI BANISHED RAMA INTO THE JUNGLES FOR FOURTEEN YEARS."

I'M GOING INTO THE JUNGLES TO KEEP MY FATHER'S PROMISE!

I WANT TO GO WITH YOU!



"ONE DAY AS RAMA WENT AFTER A DEER, RAVANA KIDNAPPED VAIDEHI."

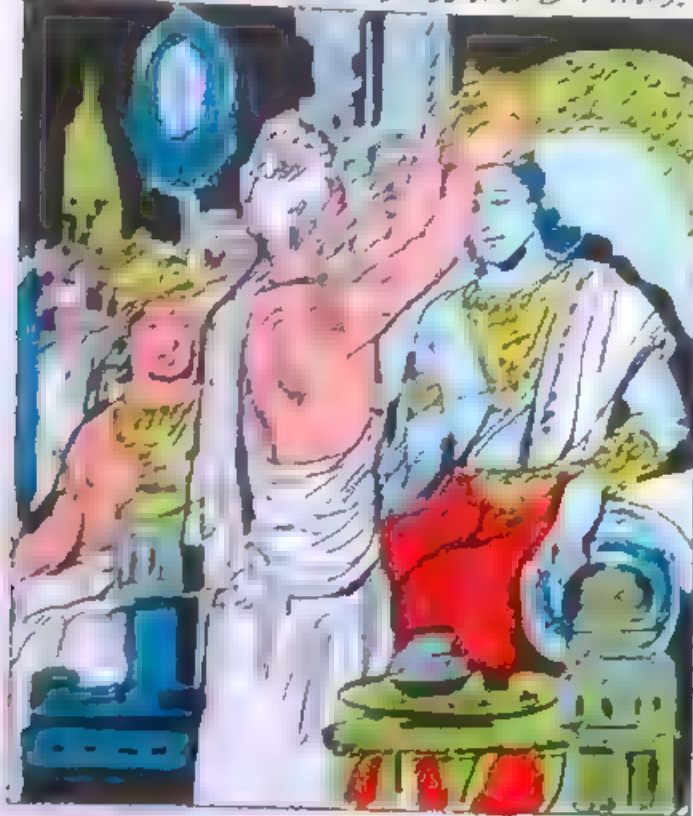


"IN THE BATTLE THAT FOLLOWED, RAVANA WAS KILLED BY RAMA."





AFTER SPENDING FOURTEEN YEARS IN EXILE, RAMA RETURNED TO AYODHYA AND WAS CROWNED KING.



ONE DAY, BECAUSE OF WHAT A LAUNDEPER SAID, RAMA BANISHED VAIDEHI!

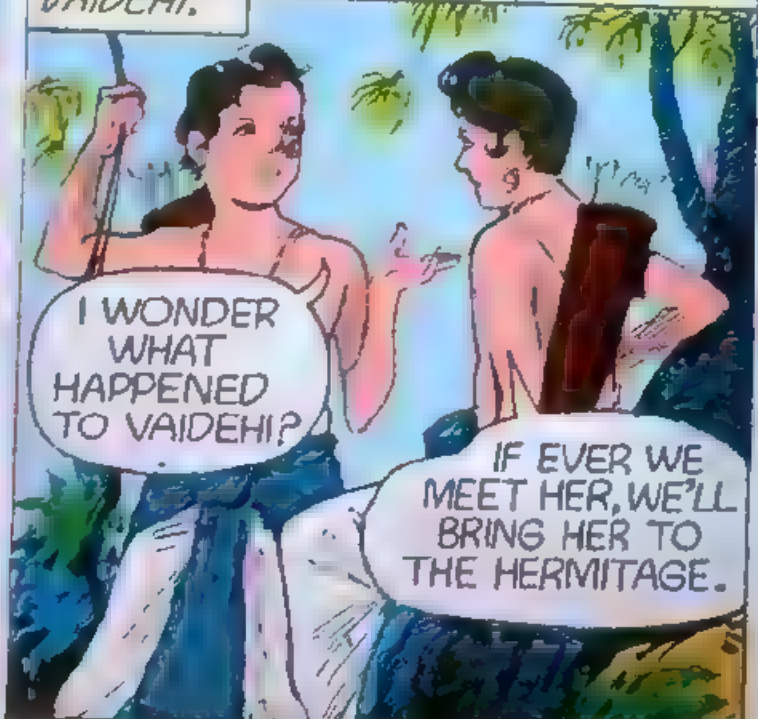


POOR VAIDEHI!  
RAMA  
WAS  
CRUEL,  
INDEED!

VALMIKI TAUGHT THEM OF "YAJNA" AND SUCH OTHER MATTERS TOO.



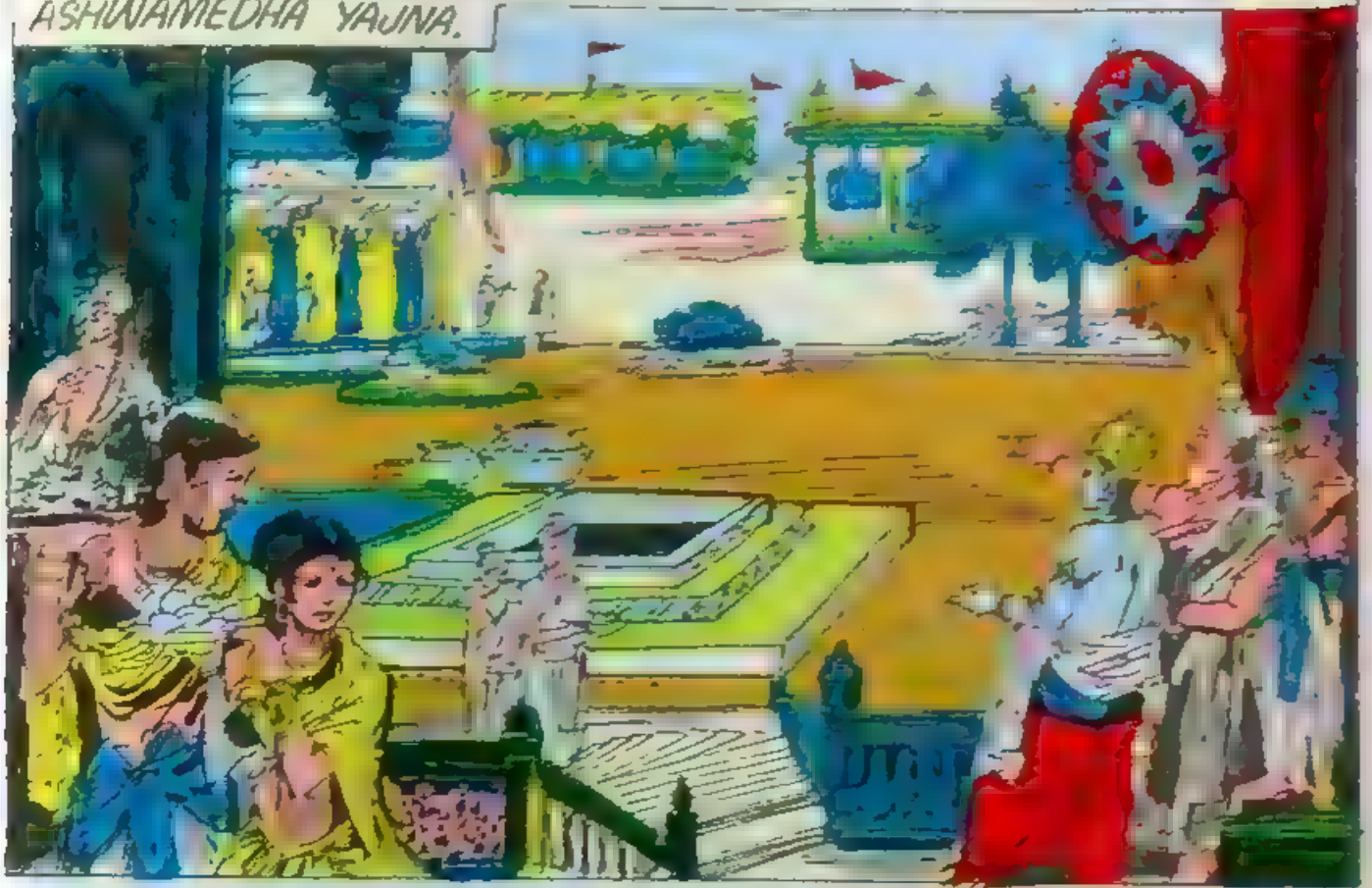
EVERY DAY THEY PRACTISED THE ARTS OF WAR. THEY ALSO TALKED ABOUT VAIDEHI.



THEY DID NOT REALISE THAT VAIDEHI WAS NONE OTHER THAN SITA, THEIR MOTHER.



MEANWHILE, IN HYODHIA RAMA PREPARED TO PERFORM THE ASHWINMEDHA YAJNA.



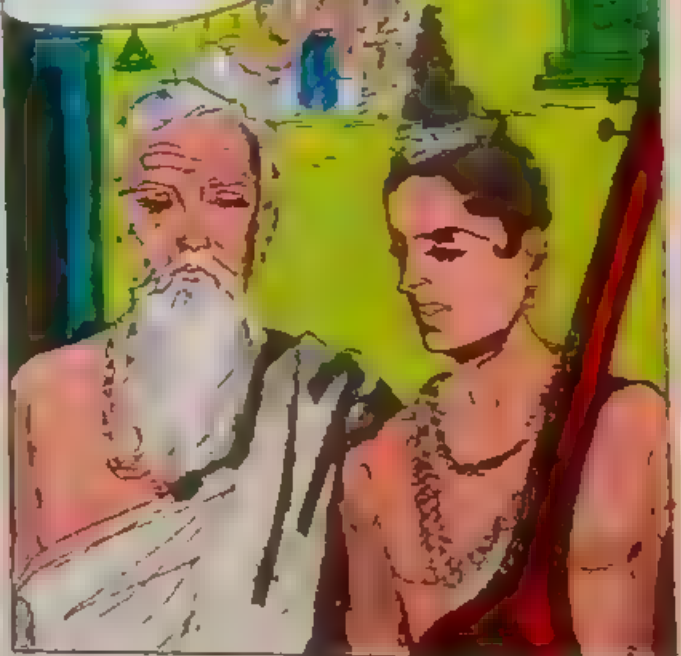
AS PEOPLE PASSED BY HIS ROYAL PALACE—



ALL WERE INVITED TO THE YAJNA.

THE GREAT SAGES, VISHWA-MITRA AND NARADA ARE HERE TOO.

THEY ARE STAYING WITH THE SAGE VASHISHTHA.





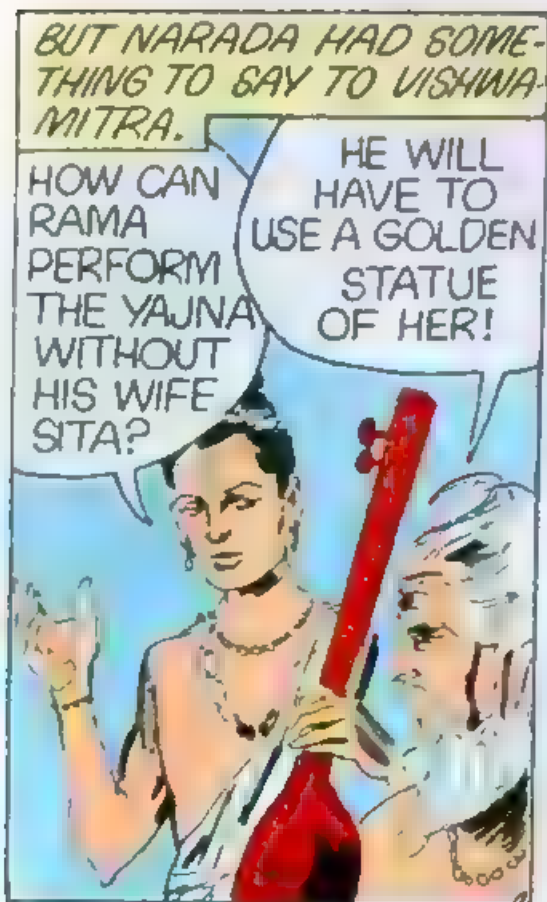
RULERS FROM ALL AROUND CAME WITH THEIR ARMIES.



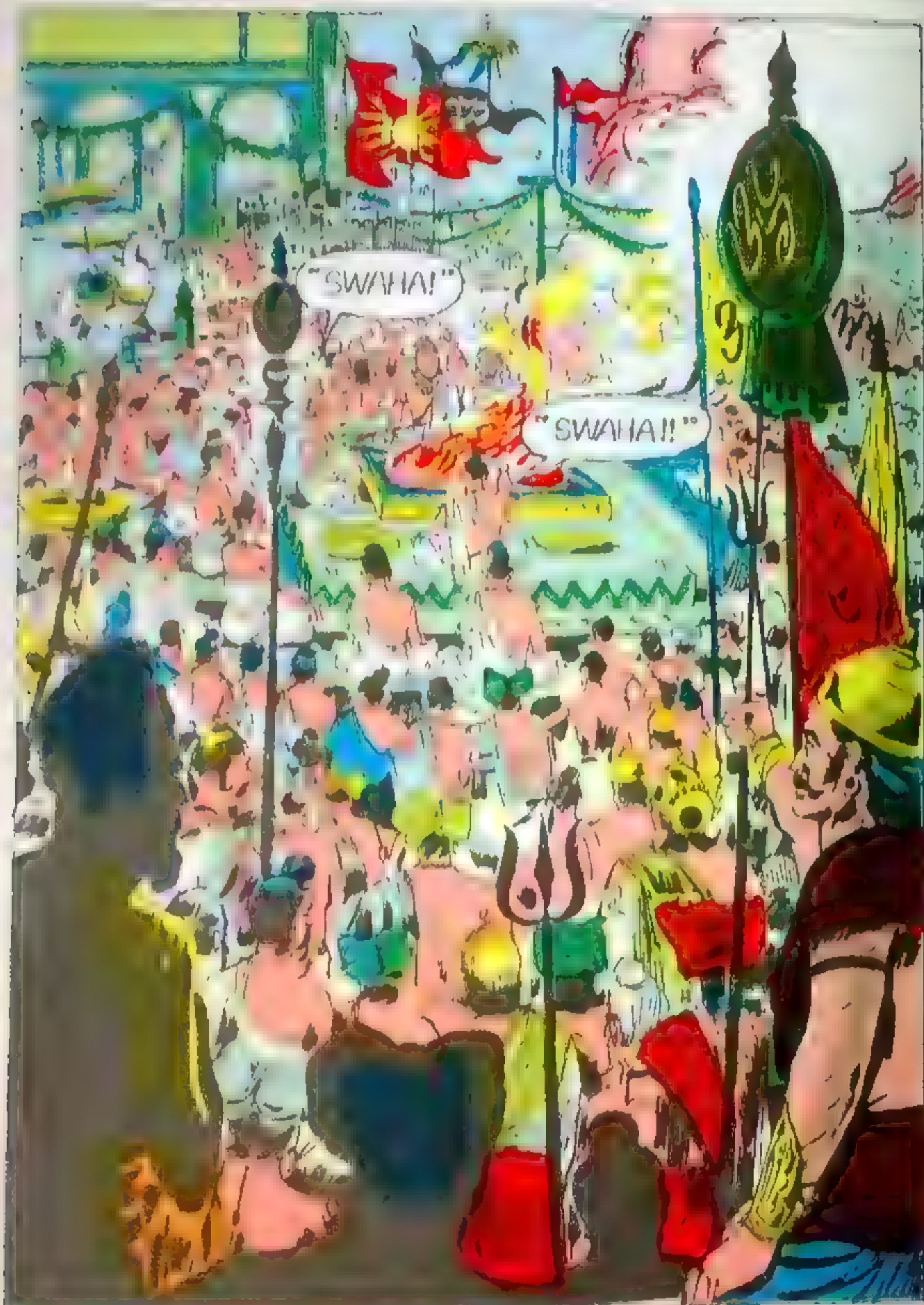
THE YAJNASHALA WAS DECORATED; PREPARATIONS WERE NOW COMPLETE.





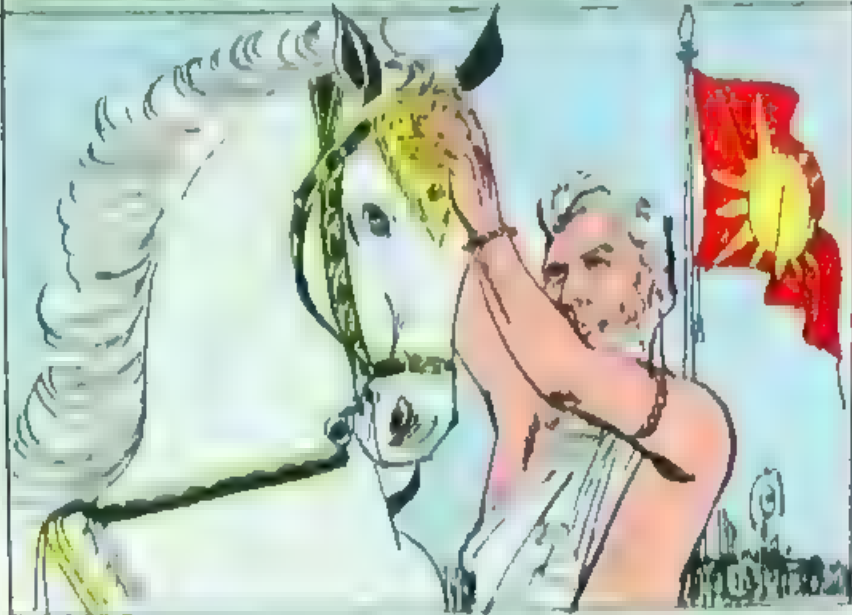




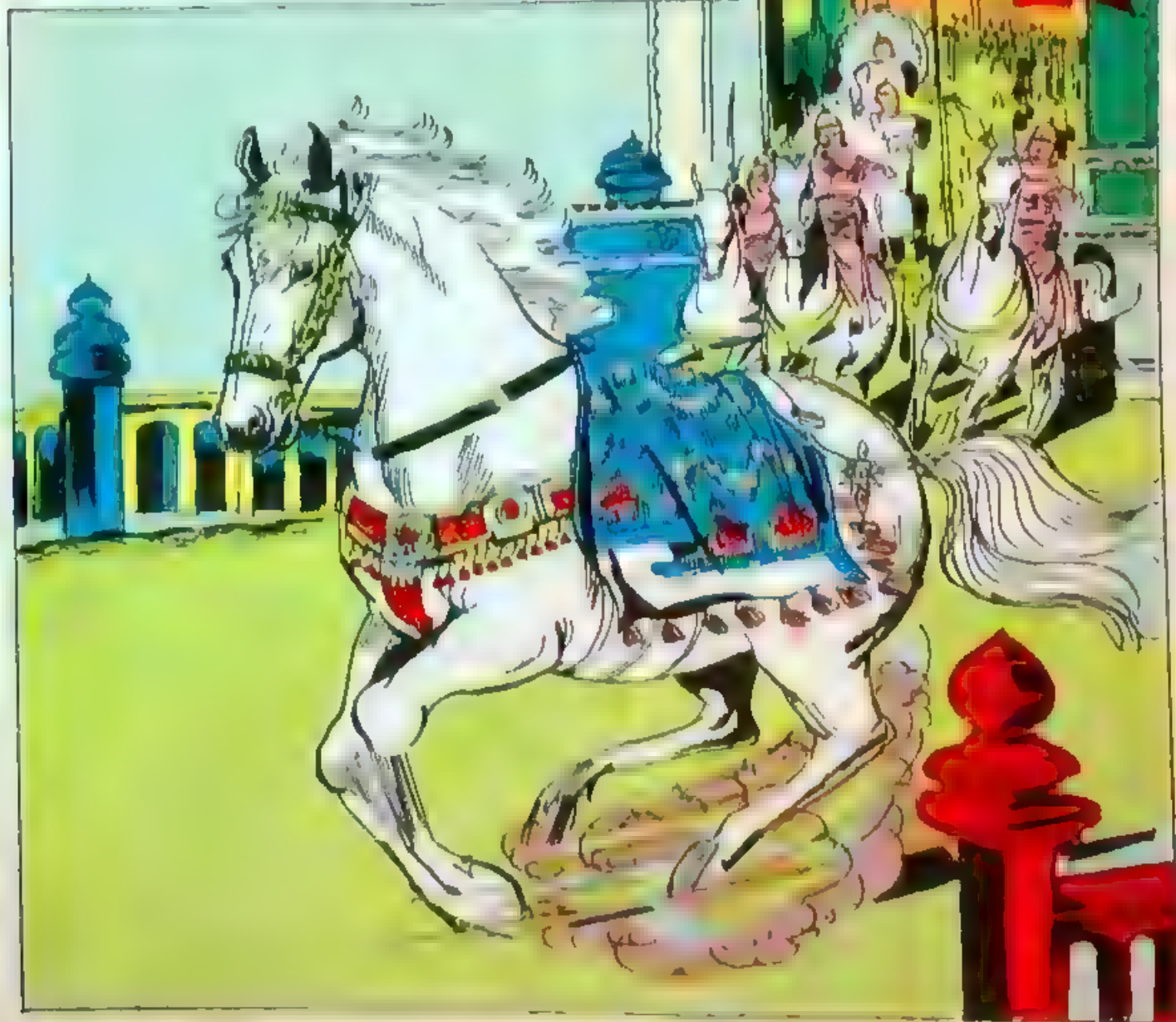




VISHWAMITRA TIED THE CEREMONIAL  
GOLD LEAF ON THE HORSE'S FOREHEAD.



THE HORSE WAS THEN  
LET LOOSE AND THE  
ARMY FOLLOWED IT.





AS THE HORSE ENTERED A RULER'S DOMAIN--

WHAT SHALL WE DO, MY MINISTER?

WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING.

WE ARE TOO WEAK. EVEN RAVANA WAS NO MATCH FOR RAMA.

MANY A RULER ACCEPTED RAVANA'S SUPREMACY WITHOUT A FIGHT.

NOBODY CHECKS THE HORSE.

WHO DARES FIGHT THIS ARMY?

LUV AND KUSH SAW THE HORSE FROM AFAR.

KUSH, LET'S CATCH THAT HORSE!

LOOK AT THIS, LUV. ANYONE WHO HOLDS THIS HORSE WILL HAVE TO FIGHT!

THEN WE WILL FIGHT!



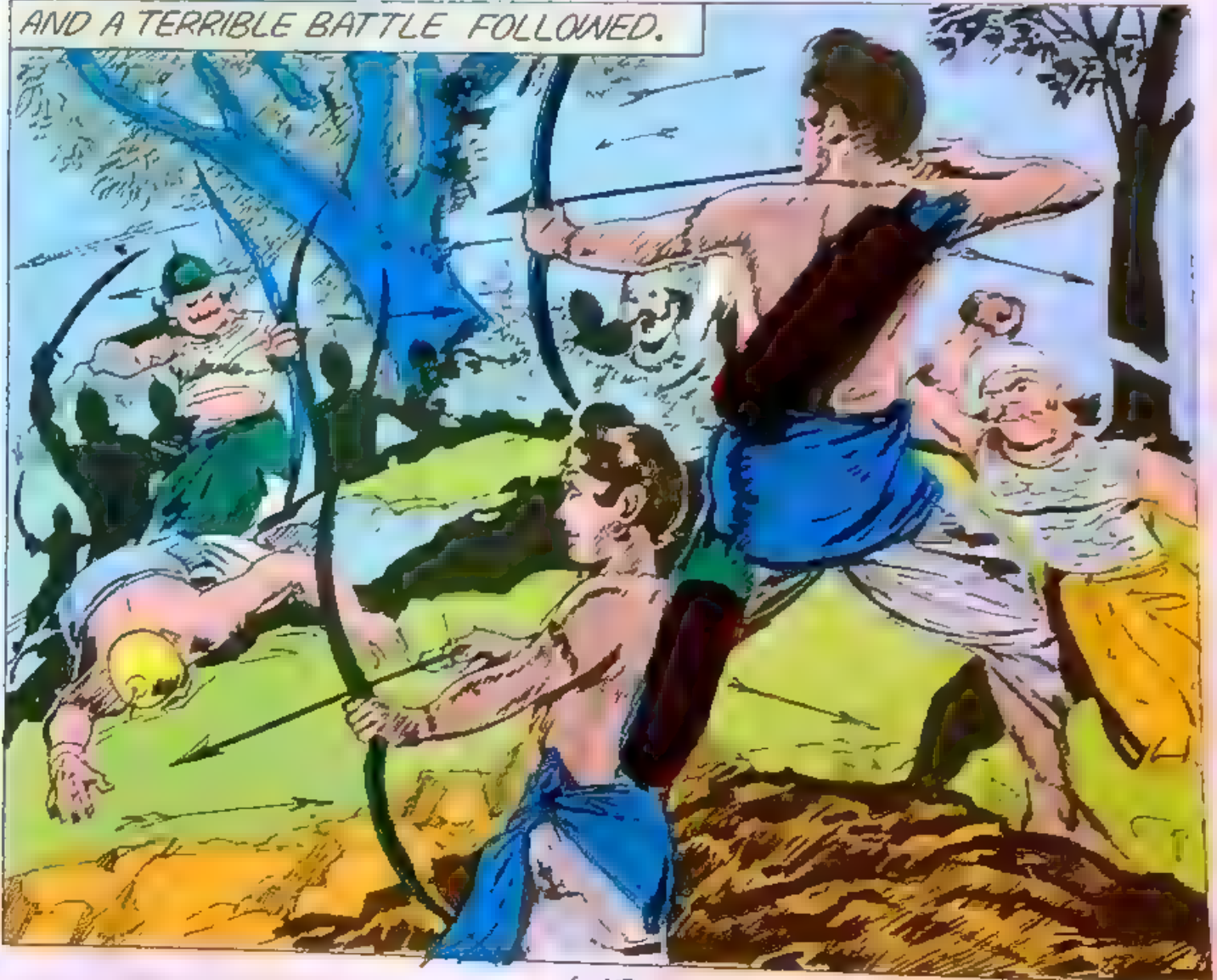
LUV AND KUSH TIED THE HORSE TO A TREE.



ONE OF RAMA'S SOLDIERS CAME UP TO THEM.



AND A TERRIBLE BATTLE FOLLOWED.





ONE OF THE SOLDIERS HASTENED  
BACK TO SHATRUGHNA.

SIRE! THOSE TWO  
CHILDREN ARE  
IMPOSSIBLE!  
THEY HAVE  
MADE FOOLS  
OF US!

I'LL TEACH  
THEM  
HOW TO  
BEHAVE!



LUV, SHOOT  
AT THE  
WHEEL!

H-E-R-E  
GOES!





AS SHATRUGHNA FELL, RAMA'S  
ARMY FLED IN DISARRAY.



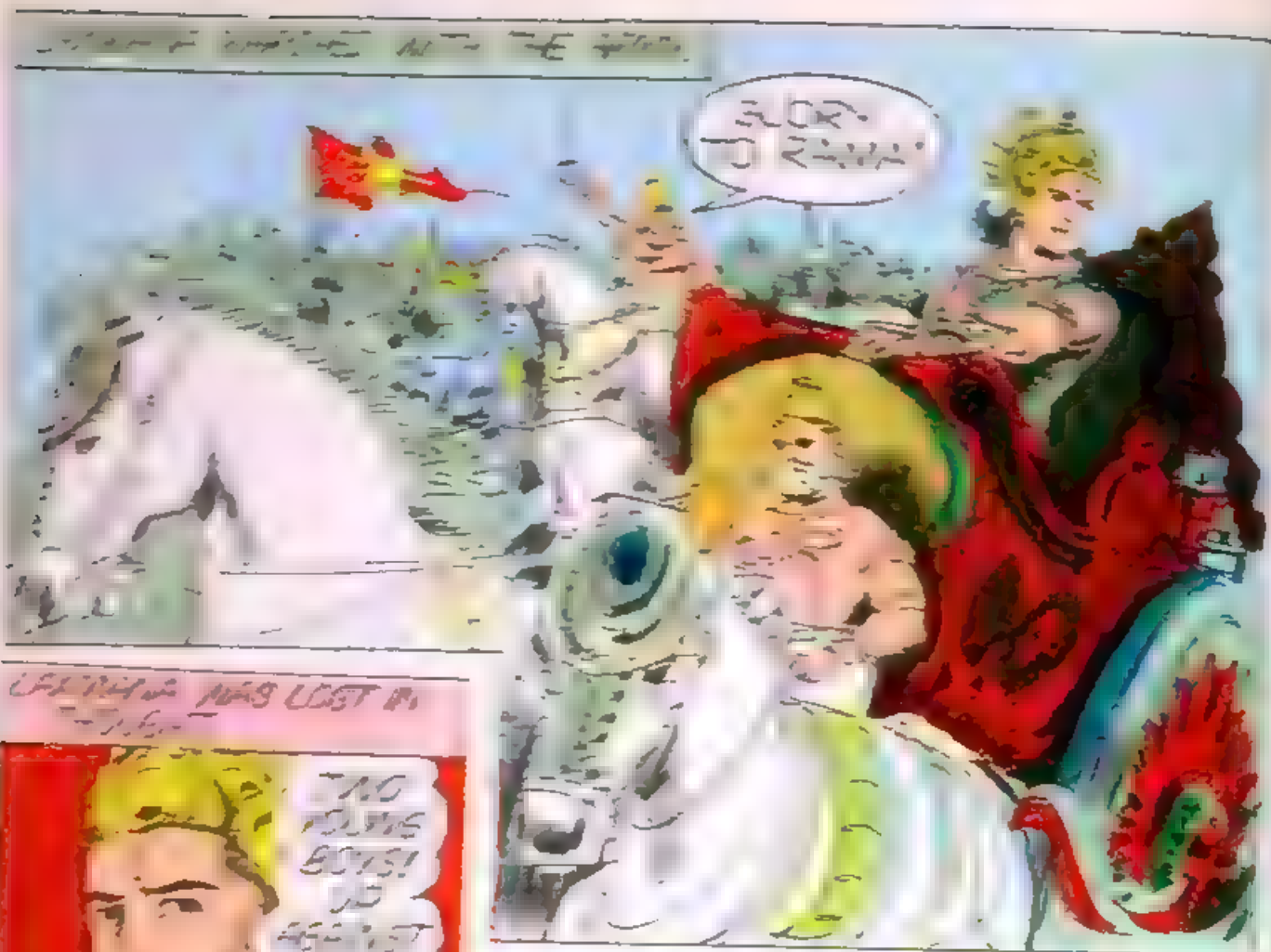
SOME OF THE SOLDIERS  
WENT UP TO RAMA.



RAMA WAS DISTURBED.







LET THEM HAVE LAST IN

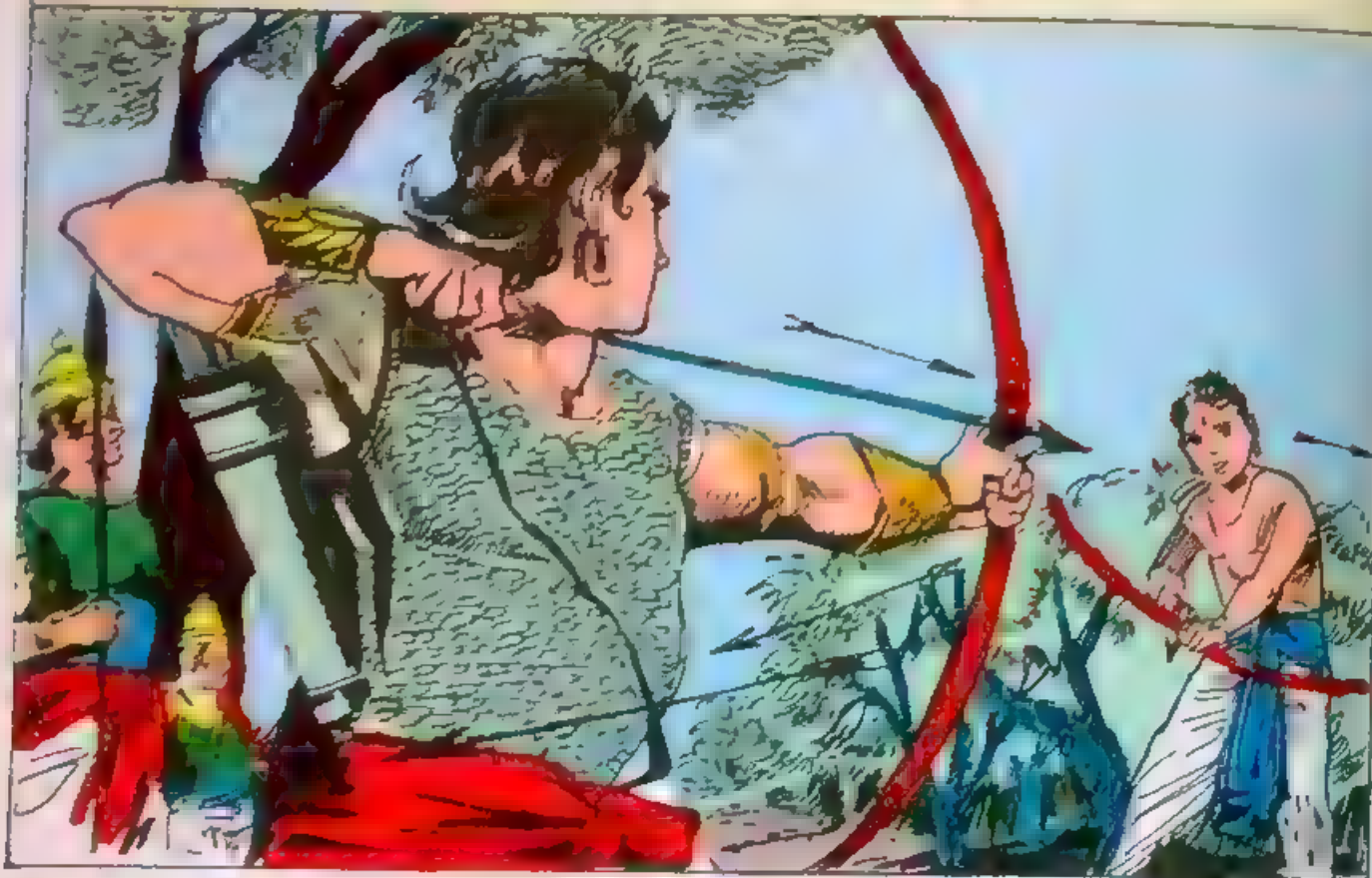




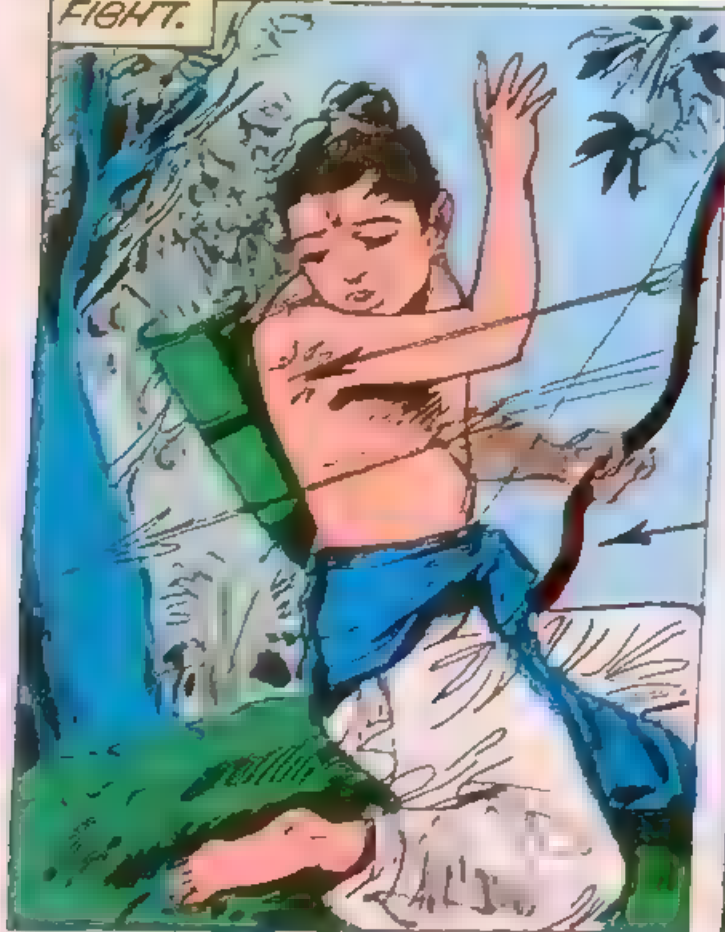




KUSH AND LAXMANA ENGAGED IN A FURIOUS BATTLE.



KUSH WAS WOUNDED IN THE FIGHT.



ENRAGED, LUV CHALLENGED LAXMANA TO A DUEL.

I WON'T LET YOU LIVE AFTER WHAT YOU HAVE DONE TO KUSH!



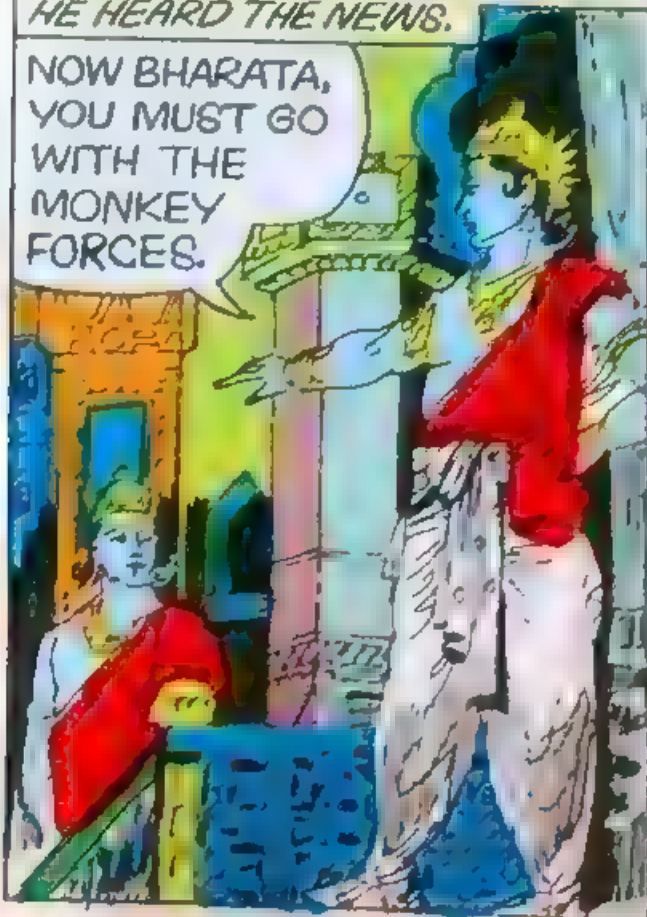


LUV HAD HIS REVENGE. LAXMANA FELL UNCONSCIOUS.

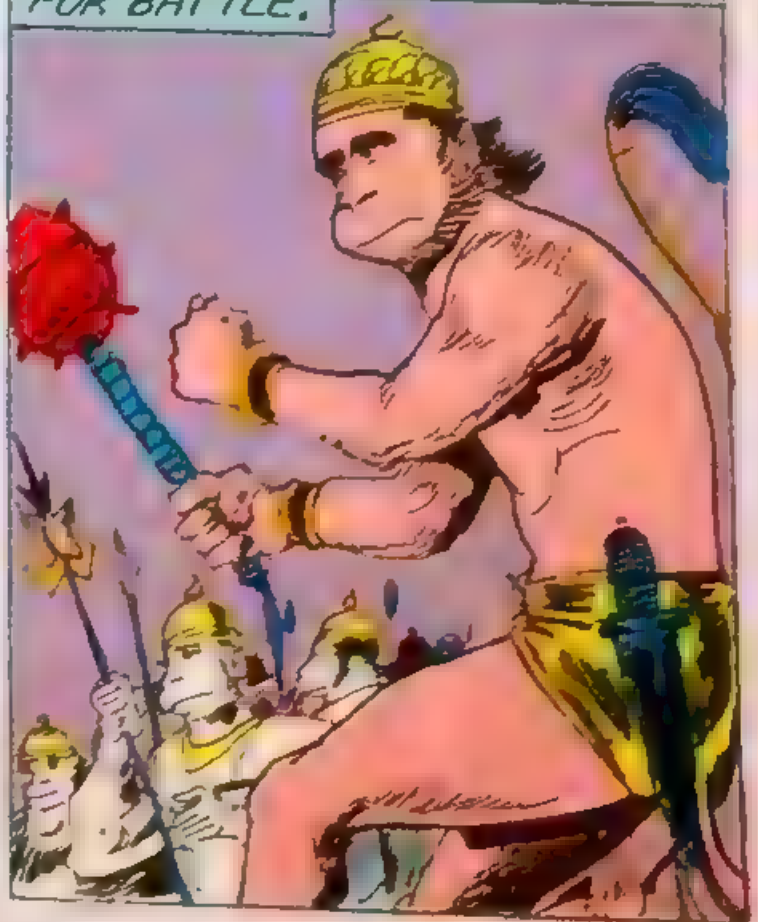


RAMA WAS VERY UPSET WHEN HE HEARD THE NEWS.

NOW BHARATA, YOU MUST GO WITH THE MONKEY FORCES.

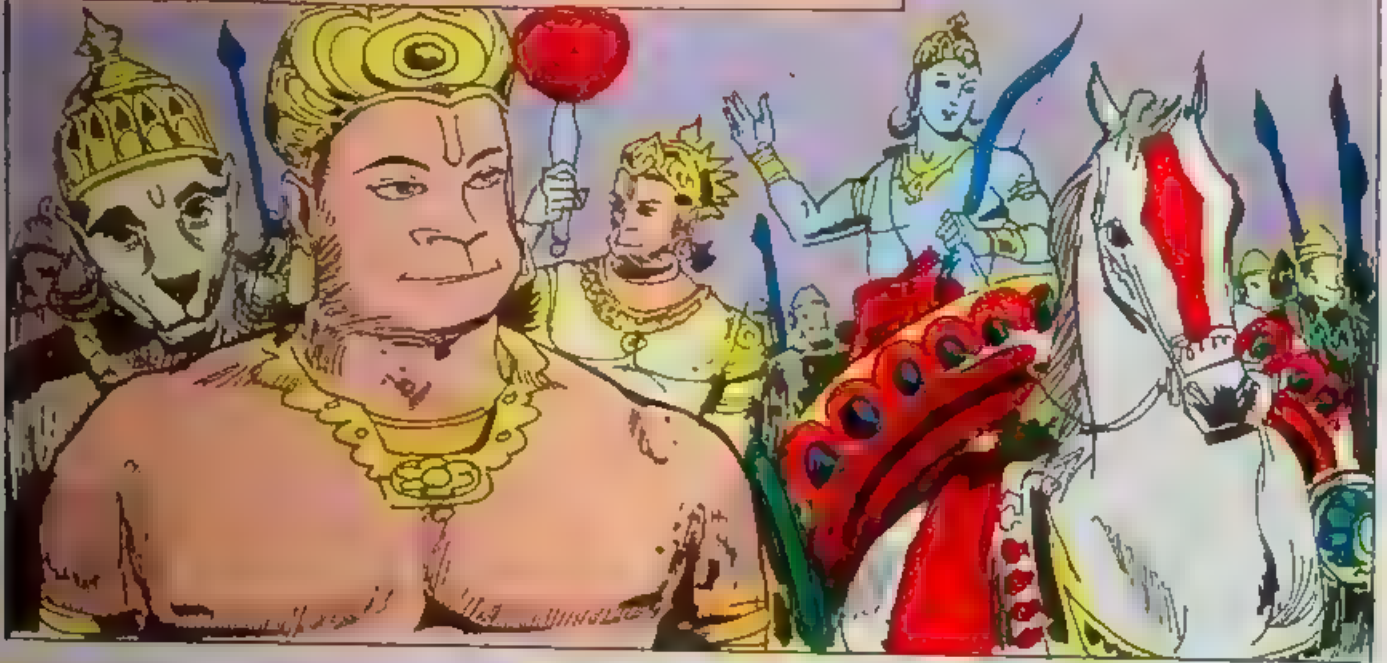


AND THE MONKEYS PREPARED FOR BATTLE.





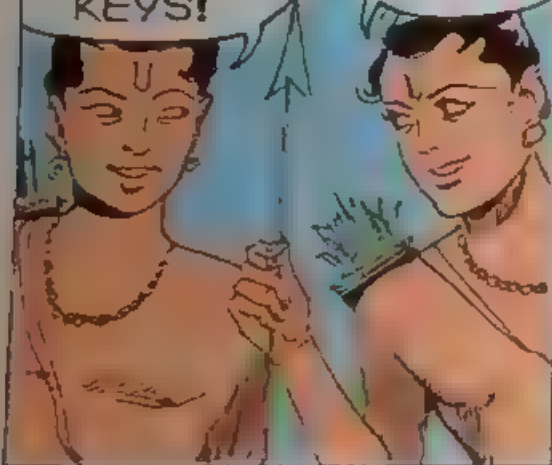
HANUMAN ALSO ACCOMPANIED BHARATA.



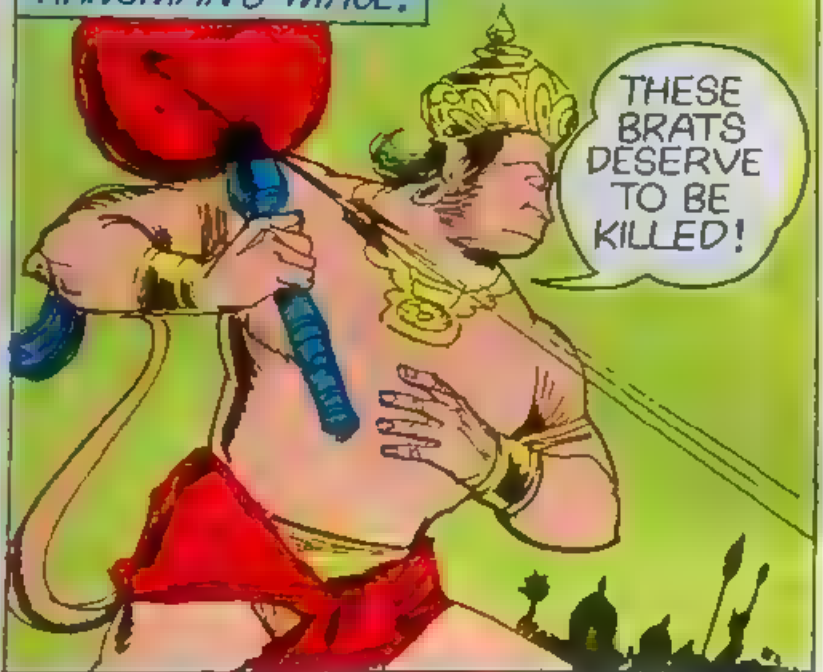
LUV AND KUSH EXCHANGED MEANINGFUL LOOKS.

SAY, LET'S MAKE MONKEYS OUT OF THESE MONKEYS!

THE SOONER THE BETTER!

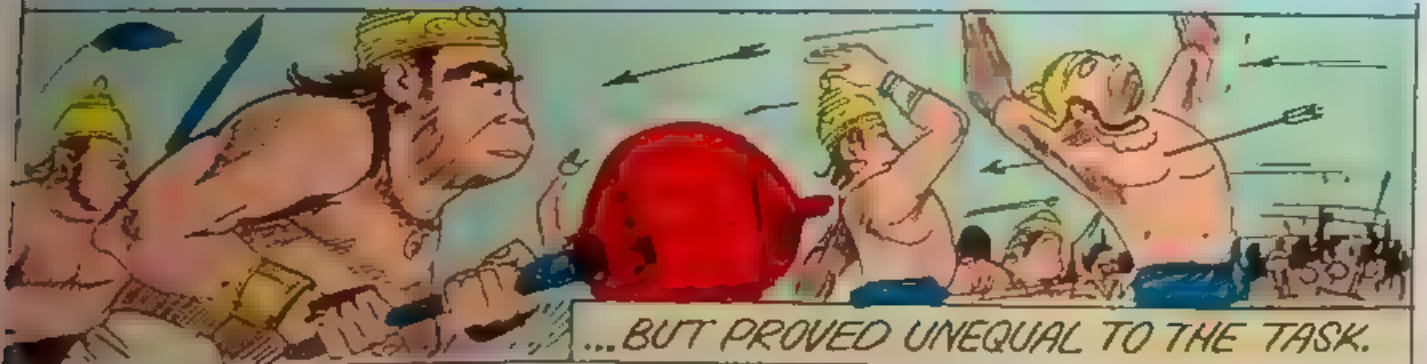


INSTANTLY AN ARROW STRUCK HANUMAN'S MACE.



THESE BRATS DESERVE TO BE KILLED!

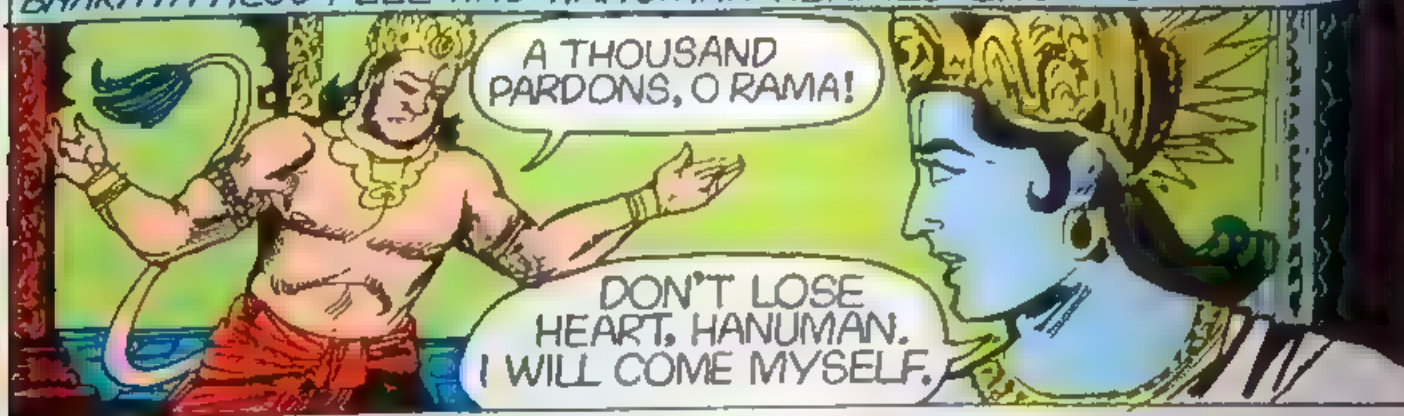
THE MONKEY FORCES WENT INTO ACTION AGAINST LUV AND KUSH.



...BUT PROVED UNEQUAL TO THE TASK.



BHARATA ALSO FELL AND HANUMAN HURRIED BACK TO RAMA.



RAMA LED HIS HUGE FORCES.





RAMA DECIDED TO FIND OUT ABOUT THE CHILDREN.

WHO ARE YOUR  
FATHER  
AND MOTHER?

WE DO NOT  
KNOW ABOUT OUR  
FATHER. BUT SITA IS OUR  
MOTHER. BUT WHY ARE  
YOU SO INTERESTED  
ANYWAY?



THOUGH THE BOYS DID NOT KNOW THEIR FATHER, RAMA  
RECOGNISED THEM. HIS BOW DROPPED FROM HIS HANDS.

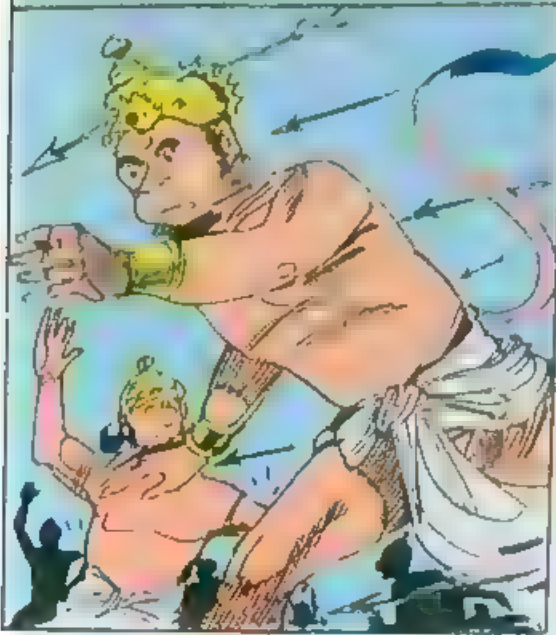
YOU ARE SITA'S...

LOOK, HE IS  
FAINTING! AND JUST  
BECAUSE OF WHAT  
WE SAID. LET'S GO  
AND TAKE CARE OF  
HIS ARMY.

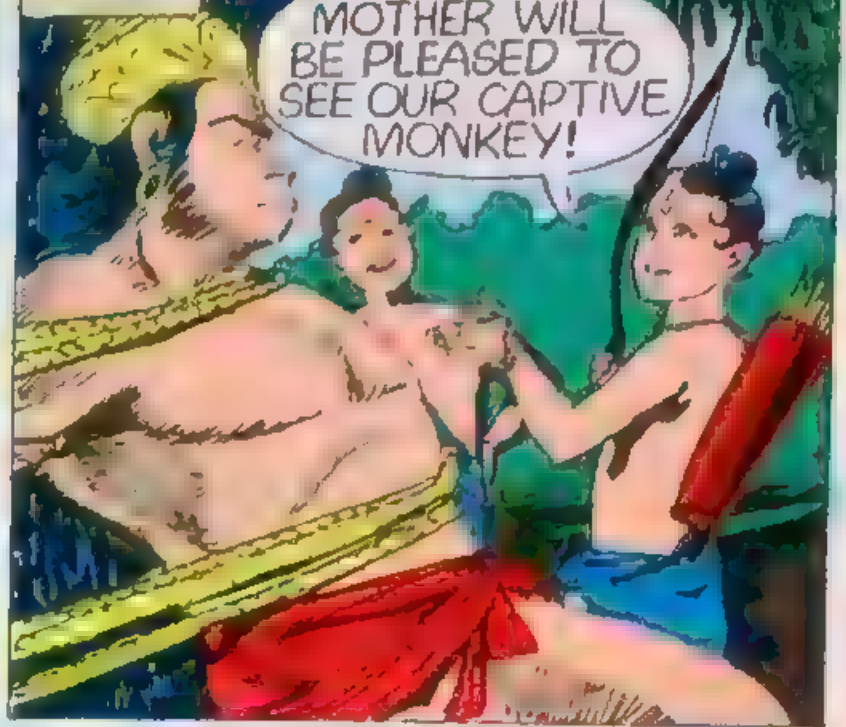




SOON LUV AND KUSH HAD  
THE MONKEYS AT THEIR  
MERCY.



THEY TIED HANUMAN NEAR THE  
HORSE.



MOTHER WILL  
BE PLEASED TO  
SEE OUR CAPTIVE  
MONKEY!

THE MONKEYS DEALT WITH, LUV  
AND KUSH RETURNED TO RAMA.

GOODNESS!  
HE IS STILL UN-  
CONSCIOUS!

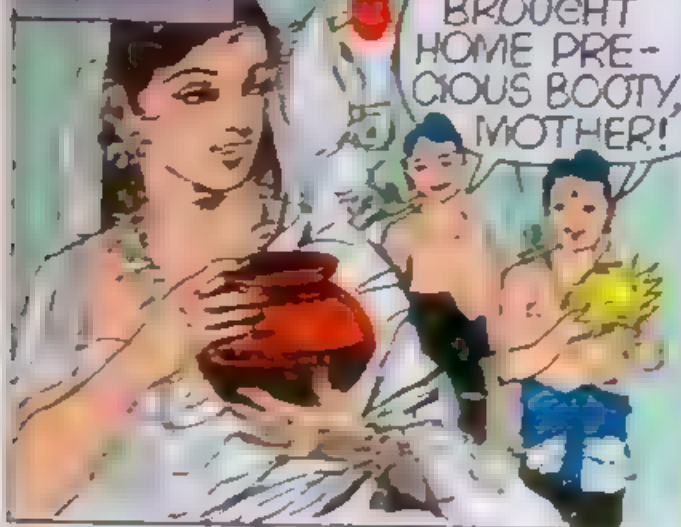


LET'S  
TAKE  
AWAY  
HIS  
CROWN.





WITH THE HORSE AND THE CROWN, LUV AND KUSH APPROACHED THEIR MOTHER.



WE HAVE BROUGHT HOME PRECIOUS BOOTY, MOTHER!

HEAVENS! NO! DID YOU KILL HIM?



AS SANA REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS, VALMI BROUGHT LUV AND KUSH TO MEET HIM.

MAHARSHI!

HE DID NOT DIE MOTHER, HE IS ALIVE!

HERE ARE YOUR SONS, RAMA!



VALMI OF THE RAMAYANA IS MORE CARED THAN OUR MOTHER, LUV!



HANUMAN WAS STILL  
TIED UP.



SAY WITH  
ME, GUSHY  
BE TO  
KAMA!



VALMIKI BROUGHT SITA FORWARD.

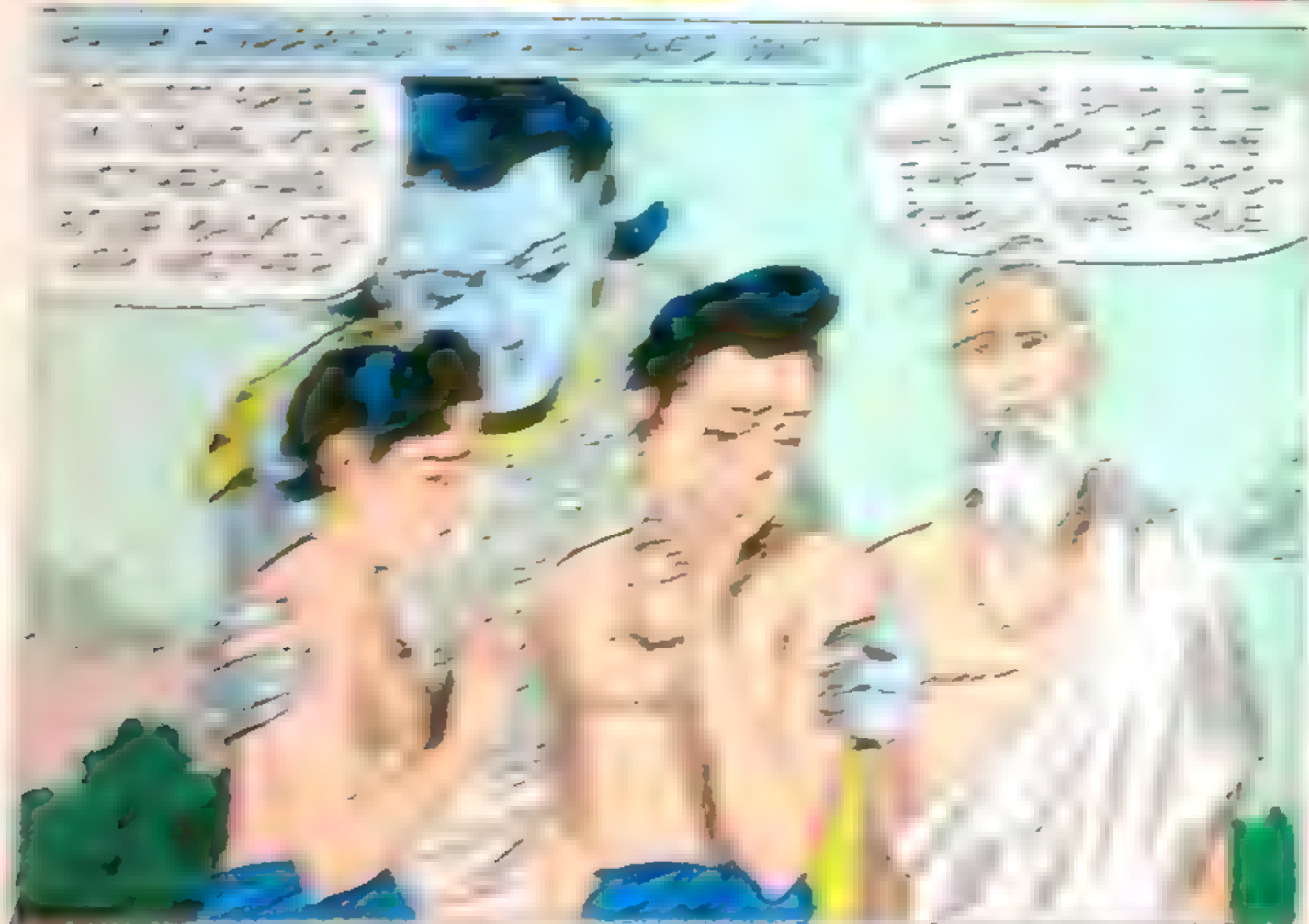
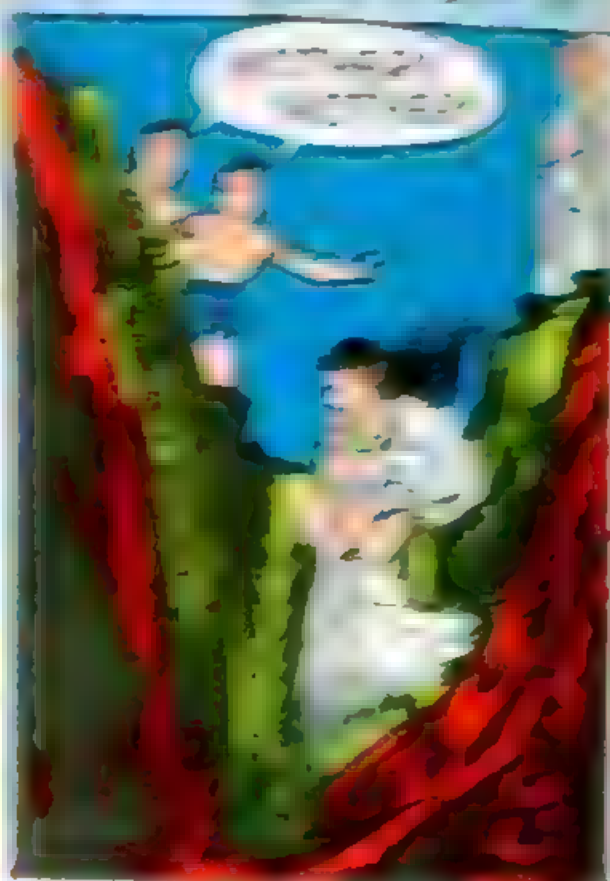
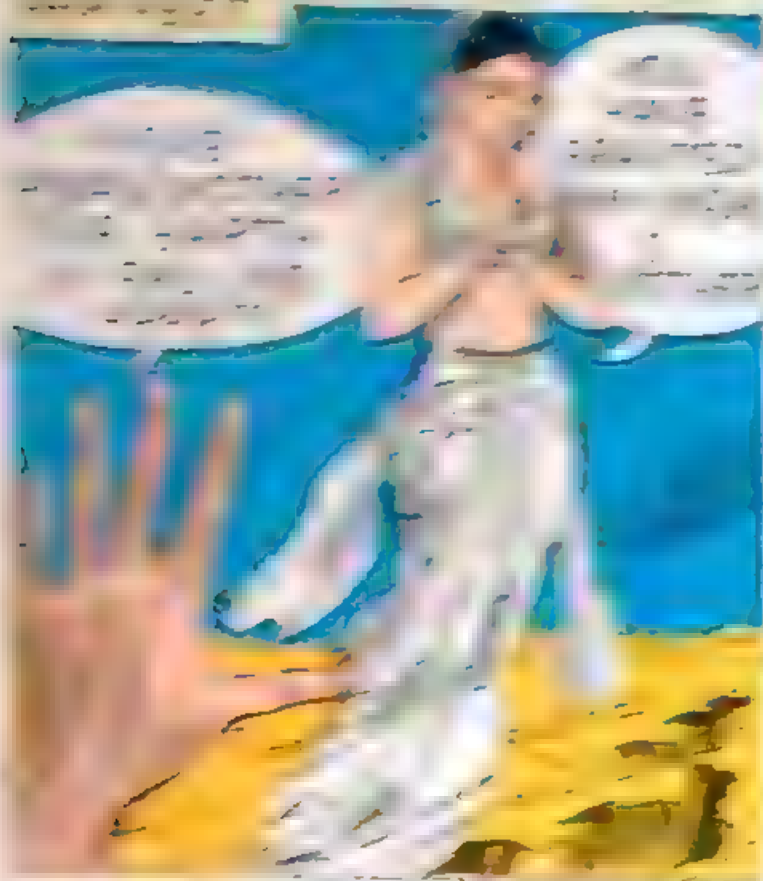
YOU MUST  
TAKE SITA  
BACK WITH  
YOU.



BITA COULD NOT BEAR  
THE HUMILIATION ANY  
MORE.









WITH HIS SONS AND HIS FRIENDS  
RASHI RETURNED TO INDIA.

THE BOYS  
PROVED  
THEIR WORTH!  
ONE DAY  
THEY WILL  
MAKE GREAT  
RULERS!





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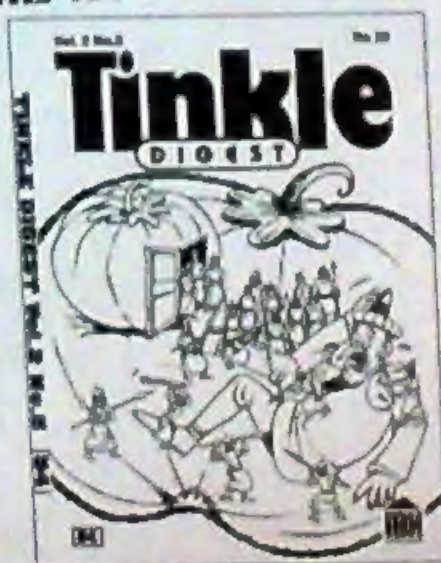
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